

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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Contact: Detective Sergeant Scott Jarmon
Phone: (360) 704-4242

State Patrol's Computer Crimes Unit Continues to Combat Crime

The Washington State Patrol's Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) has been making a difference for Washington's citizens' every day since 1997. CCU investigates cases that include crimes involving **Narcotics, Homicide, Identity Theft, Terrorism, Child Pornography, and On-Line Exploitation of Children**. CCU has played a significant role in bringing to justice those who have robbed our neighbors, victimized our children, and threatened our nation's security.

The exponential growth of technology in all aspects of our daily lives continues to transfer over to the criminal element which is now using non-traditional high technology. For example, criminals are now using cellular telephones, personal data assistants (PDAs), credit card readers, I-Pods, blackberries, and other non-traditional storage media devices to facilitate their criminal behavior.

CCU detectives have received specialized training and equipment to conduct forensic examinations on these types of non-traditional high technology storage media devices. These investigations are on the cutting edge of high technology criminal investigation. This service is provided to all law enforcement agencies in Washington State.

During the first six (6) months of calendar year 2006, CCU examined nine cellular telephones and one PDA. These cases involved a homicide investigation, narcotics investigation, homeland security investigation, and a child exploitation investigation. In each of these cases, the forensic examinations provided the critical evidence needed for the arrests and prosecutions.

Captain Mark Couey, Investigative Assistance Division Commander, stated he is proud of the work CCU is doing to improve public safety and related the State Patrol is committed to providing assistance to its law enforcement partners on these types of complex investigations.

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